

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SU, EINV, US, KU, SA

SUBJECT: COORDINATING AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED DEVELOP-
MENT EFFORTS IN SUDAN

1. IN DISCUSSIONS HERE OF APPROPRIATE PACKAGE OF USG
MEASURES TO ASSIST SUDAN, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SOME
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MECHANISM IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE TRI-
ANGULAR US-ARAB-SUDANESE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE/
AGRIBUSINESS AND TO FACILITATE COORDINATION OF PRIVATE
AND MIXED PROJECTS WITH BUILDING OF RELATED INFRA-
STRUCTURE. SINCE SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WILL PROBABLY
REMAIN MAJOR SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR ALL TYPES OF PRO-
JECTS IN SUDAN, WE SEE MERIT IN WORKING WITH THEIR
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND GOS IN AN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE
GROUP OR COMMISSION FOR SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT.
WHILE U.S. INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN IBRD CONSULTATIVE
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GROUP MEETING IN PARIS, WE FEAR THIS IS TOO OCCASIONAL

AND CUMBERSOME FORUM TO BE CHARGED WITH MAJOR ROLE IN STIMULATING PRIVATE OR MIXED INVESTMENT. IT CAN, OF COURSE, CONSIDER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO MAKE AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS FEASIBLE.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO EXPLORE WITH GOS SUGGESTION THAT GOS CONVENE A TRIPARTITE OR QUADRIPARTITE GOS-USG-

SAG-GOK MEETING IN KHARTOUM AT WHICH EACH GOVERNMENTS' PLANS AND PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION ON PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WOULD BE EXCHANGED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP (POSSIBLY INCLUDING A CONTINUING COORDINATING MECHANISM AND ACTION PROGRAM) FORMULATED. WE ENVISION SENDING TO THIS EXPLORATORY MEETING A TOP LEVEL USG TECHNICAL EXPERT, OPIC REPRESENTATIVE AND PERHAPS SOMEONE FROM AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL. WE DO NOT WISH TO PRESSURE GOS INTO ACCEPTING PREDETERMINED FORMAT OR OUTCOME OF MEETING, BUT WE BELIEVE PARTICIPANTS ARE LIKELY TO ARRIVE AT CONCLUSION THAT IT IS HIGHLY USEFUL FORUM AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT INSTITUTIONALIZED.

3. IN HIS TALKS HERE LAST MONTH, MINFINANCE BIHEIRY SAID HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE QUADRILATERAL OR TRI-LATERAL APPROACH BUT THAT IT MUST EVOLVE NATURALLY ON THE SAUDI-KUWAITI SIDE AND NOT BE PRESENTED TO THEM AS THE PRODUCT OF A US-GOS AGREEMENT. HE PROMISED TO EXPLORE THE IDEA WITH THE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS. SINCE IT UNCLEAR FROM BIHEIRY'S REMARKS WHETHER OR NOT GOS WOULD REALLY BE INTERESTED IN QUADRILATERAL OR TRILATERAL APPROACH, YOU SHOULD RAISE MATTER WITH HIM OR WITH WHOMEVER YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE AND OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE ANSWER RE GOS RE-CEPTIVITY TO HOLDING MEETING IN KHARTOUM AT EARLIEST DATE. WE MUST HAVE PRECISE FEEL FOR GOS VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, WHICH IS KEY ELEMENT IN OUR PRESENT PLANNING OF U.S. ASSISTANCE MEASURES, BEFORE WE CAN PROCEED. KISSINGER

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